

Appl. No. 10/750,016

Amendment dated March 7, 2005

* This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A method for applying an elastic member to an article web defining a pair of article web side edges, said method comprising:

i) providing said elastic member, wherein at least a portion of said elastic member is elongatable in at least a cross machine direction and defines an elastic member width;

ii) moving said elastic member in a machine direction along an elastic member web path;

iii) providing a pair of rotatable wheels in said elastic member web path, said pair of wheels defining:

a) a pair of inboard edges,

b) a pair of outboard edges opposite said inboard edges,

c) an elastic member entry location having an elastic member entry location width that is less than said elastic member width, and

d) an elastic member exit location having an elastic member exit location width that is greater than said elastic member entry width;

iv) engaging said elastic member with said pair of wheels at said elastic member entry location wherein a portion of said elastic member is located beyond each of said inboard edges of said pair of wheels thereby defining a pair of outboard portions of said elastic member and an inboard portion of said elastic member;

v) rotating said elastic member with said pair of wheels; and

vi) applying said elastic member to said article web proximate said elastic member exit location wherein said outboard portions of said elastic member extend beyond said article web side edges.

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2. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing said elastic member comprises:
 - i) providing an elastic material web;
 - ii) forming a line of weakness in said elastic material web to define a trailing edge of the elastic member;
 - iii) cutting said elastic material web to define an leading edge of the elastic member; and
 - iv) separating said elastic material web at said line of weakness into discrete elastic members.
3. (Original): The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - i) providing an adhesive application assembly; and
 - ii) applying an operative amount of adhesive to said elastic material web.
4. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said operative amount of adhesive is applied in a rectilinear pattern.
5. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said operative amount of adhesive is registered with said leading edge and said trailing edge.
6. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said operative amount of adhesive does not contact said pair of wheels.
7. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said trailing edge is curvilinear.
8. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said trailing edge defines "w" shape.
9. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein engaging said elastic member comprises holding said elastic member on said pair of wheels with vacuum.

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10. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein engaging said elastic member comprises holding said elastic member on said pair of wheels with a pair of transfer bands.

11. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 10 wherein said pair of transfer bands wraps said pair of rotatable wheels at least between said entry location and said exit location.

12. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 10 comprising:

- i) providing an adhesive application assembly; and
- ii) applying an operative amount of adhesive to said web of elastic material; wherein said adhesive does not contact said pair of wheels or said transfer bands.

13. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein rotating said elastic member with said pair of wheels elongates said inboard portion of said elastic member at least 50%.

14. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said pair of wheels each further define a wheel diameter of from between 0.3 meters to 2.0 meters.

Claims 15 – 20 (Canceled)

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